

# GCMTA News



## From the President

### Thank You

Thank you for allowing me to serve as your president a second time. My first term was May 2011-May 2013, so this one occurred exactly ten years later. I have learned so much both times, and I value the friendships with my GCMTA colleagues.

Thank you to the wonderful ladies who served alongside me:

- Gloria Park, President-Elect, for your helpfulness and great programs.
- Debbie Murphy, Secretary, for your faithfulness and attention to detail.
- Robin Engleman, Treasurer, for your diligence and eye for improvement.

Thank you to all of the hard-working and thoughtful committee chairs. Every one of you is important because you help our association in unique capacities. There is no way that our group could function as well as it does without the many teachers who volunteer their time and energy to ensure that the events run smoothly.

Be involved, stay involved, and serve whenever you can.

Another reminder - June 30 is quickly approaching, so please remember to renew your MTNA/GCMTA membership!

Cathy Thacker, NCTM  
GCMTA President

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## ***Junior/Senior Scholarship***

15 students entered, and 11 piano students and 2 voice students competed for scholarships on Saturday, April 22 at PianoWorks. Our judge this year was Dr. Geoffrey Haydon.

Congratulations to the winners and their teachers!

### Winners of Scholarship:

1st place \$800 Ethan Liu...Joanna Kim-Doyle  
 2nd place \$600 Megan Lee...Ping Xu  
 3rd place \$400 Coakley Kennedy (voice)...Deb Hughes  
 4th place \$200 Khai Hoang...Joanna Kim-Doyle

### Honorable Mentions:

Jack Wong...Yumi Patterson  
 Meredith Manlove-Simmons (voice)...Deb Huges  
 Esther Jung...Min-Jung Jin



## ***Membership***

We encourage you to remember that as a member of GCMTA, you REPresent it as an ambassador and an inviter/host for prospective new members to attend our meetings. Use our calling card invitations and brochures to entice potential new teachers to our meetings. (Need some? See Deb Hughes).

If you have opportunity, you might inform them of the three main advantages of being a member:

1. Resources
2. Education
3. Peers

PERKS (a Resource) of being a member of MTNA are not only national (travel, printing costs, etc.) but local, as well. As a member of GCMTA, you have some very good opportunities:

Free Tickets for teachers to the Atlanta Master Chorale's performances must be requested in advance:  
[admin@atlantamasterchorale.org](mailto:admin@atlantamasterchorale.org)

Free performances of chamber musicians. Sign up: [chambermusicsociety@emory.edu](mailto:chambermusicsociety@emory.edu)

Half priced tickets for teachers for piano performances: [chopinsociety2@gmail.com](mailto:chopinsociety2@gmail.com)

Free performance opportunities for students through Atlanta Music Club: Young Performers Recitals:  
[AtlantaMusicClub.org](http://AtlantaMusicClub.org)

GFMC Awards: Piano, non-piano (voice separate from instrumental) - go to [GeorgiaNFMC.org](http://GeorgiaNFMC.org)

NFMC Junior Awards: National entry fees are so reasonable (\$10) for: blind, special needs, piano & piano concerto, strings, vocal, ballet, dance, etc. Go to [NFMC-music.org](http://NFMC-music.org) and look under Junior of the Competitions and Awards.

NFMC Senior Awards: (include teachers) Compete to win cash. [NFMC-music.org](http://NFMC-music.org)

% Discount from Joann's Fabric entire purchase for teachers. (By random I mentioned that I was purchasing for students. The cashier asked whether I was a teacher and I got a discount - surprise!)

-Deb Hughes, Membership Chair



## ***North Federated Festival***

Many thanks to all the teachers and students on a very successful Festival in North Federated on March 11, 2023. We had 243 students participating and 18 teachers helping. Of the 243 students participating we awarded 233 Superior ratings.

### Scholarship Winners

1st place - Chase Choi - Teacher, Gloria Park  
 2nd place - Hailey Culp - Teacher, Ping Xu  
 3rd place - Amber Chang - Teacher, Ping Xu  
 4th place - Ellie Yih - Teacher, Ping Xu

### Honorable Mentions

Daniel Hill - Teacher, Gloria Park  
 Myriord Reigns Dajaja - Teacher, Lisa Gaal  
 Vasisht Vissa - Teacher, Rwei Hao  
 Ashan Suneth Galhena - Teacher, Stephanie Freeman  
 Raghu Sarraf - Teacher, Rwei Hao

## ***Help Needed - Speaker/Topic Ideas***

If you have any ideas for speakers and/or topics for our programs next year, please forward that information to Kimber Kwiatkowski:  
[kckwiatkowski@att.net](mailto:kckwiatkowski@att.net)

## Central Gwinnett Federated Festival

Many thanks to the fantastic teachers and judges who participated in the Central Federated Festival. Our event was held on March 4th at Hebron Baptist Church in Dacula. We were also proud to host a virtual component to our Festival where students could submit their entries via a YouTube video link. We had approximately 275 students, 18 teachers, and 8 student volunteers. We hosted 6 events – Piano Solo, Theory, Piano Concerto, Piano Duet, Piano Hymn Playing, Clarinet Solo, and Guitar. Many of these students participated in multiple events.

Of those participating, we had 309 Superiors (includes all events), 8 Excellent, 2 Satisfactory, and 1 Fair.

Dr. Joe Chapman was the high school adjudicator, and these are the winners from that competition:

### High School Winners

- 1st Place - Sarah Elizabeth Lackey (Mary Ann McTier)
- 2nd Place - Miranda Grace Schoon (Pam Asberry)
- 3rd Place - Jasmine Julius Shayo (Chris Morrow)
- 4th Place - Amanda Leann Robinson (Mary Ann McTier)

### Honorable Mentions

- Sophia Ava Burnet (Kathy Dawal)
- Olivia Leia Grant (Pam Asberry)
- Evan James Napolitano (Pam Asberry)
- Haylee Sarah Tamas (Mary Ann McTier)

Lastly, we want to thank the Central teachers who did a great job before and during the event! We have a great team and I'm proud of the hard work and dedication you put into your students.

Kathy Dawal and Michelle Peck

### ***Teacher of the Year***

The nominations have been submitted and the votes are being tallied! Be sure to attend the May luncheon for the big reveal!

Pam Asberry  
pam.asberry@gmail.com

## May Luncheon

Please join us for our last meeting of the school year on **Wednesday, May 10, at 10 AM**. We will have our Teacher of the Year announcement and honor our outgoing president, Cathy Thacker. We will also vote to accept the 2023-24 budget.

We will meet at Alexander Park, Pavilion #1.

**800 Old Snellville Hwy  
Lawrenceville, GA 30045**

Lunch will be catered from Publix. Cost is \$6 and can be sent via Zelle, Venmo or PayPal. Cash or check can also be given on the day of the luncheon. Please email Gloria Park at [gloriapark4@gmail.com](mailto:gloriapark4@gmail.com) to RSVP.

## Roomful of Pianos

WHAT: ROOMFUL OF PIANOS COMES TO ATLANTA!

WHEN: June 21, 2023, 3-5PM

WHERE: PianoWorks, 2805 Buford Highway, Duluth, Georgia

Make Music Day began in France in 1982, and takes place on the summer solstice, on June 21st. Since then, the holiday has spread throughout the world and is now celebrated in more than 1,000 cities in 120 different countries.

This year, Roomful of Pianos Comes to Atlanta! Brought to you by NAMM and affiliated with the Make Music Alliance, our local event will be a piano ensemble concert featuring duets, duos, trios, quartets, and more! Pianists of all ages and levels of ability are invited to participate; please email [pam.asberry@gmail.com](mailto:pam.asberry@gmail.com) for an application. And whether or not you choose to perform, please plan to attend and be a part of this international musical event!

## ***2023 MTNA Conference***

The MTNA Conference held in Reno, Nevada, was an exciting reunion of colleagues from across the globe. There was much excitement and energy as we bustled about from session to session, renewing acquaintances and meeting new people.

Some of my favorite highlights included the master classes: elementary level with Melody Bober, intermediate level with Dennis Alexander, and advanced level with Angela Cheng and Alvin Chow. All of the clinicians interacted well with the students, and Cheng and Chow (who are married and work together at Oberlin Conservatory of Music) were quite entertaining as they disagreed with each other about interpretation in front of the audience. Peter Mack jokingly congratulated them afterward on their ability to work together.

Other favorite sessions included the Exhibitor Showcases. It is impossible to attend every one, but I especially enjoyed hearing Phillip Keveren from Hal Leonard and Keith Snell from Kjos Publications. Dr. Kate Boyd from Butler University had an excellent program about piano repertoire alternatives for overplayed pieces. Dr. Victor Labenske's presentation about quotes, symbols and other compositional devices was informative and fascinating. When other composers/arrangers attend someone's program, you know that the speaker has great information!

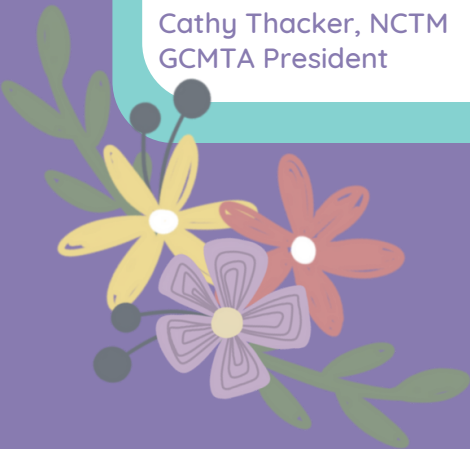
The Exhibit Hall contained the "usual suspects": major music publishing companies with discounted and free music, other companies selling their apps and programs, music-related products (jewelry, socks, scarves, stationery, etc.), piano manufacturers demonstrating their latest models, and music festivals across the country. There was definitely something for everyone.

Georgia was well-represented with two presentations. Dr. Vicente Della Tonia, Jr., from Georgia State University/Perimeter reprised his session about Five-Finger Patterns from the 2022 GMMA Conference in a condensed format. Dr. Grace Huang from the University of Georgia co-presented with colleagues from Minnesota and Florida. We were a bit under-represented at the Gala and shared a table with Ohio, but we were thrilled to see Joy Poole receive her Foundation Fellow award. Igor Lipinski, the "musician magician" (as Gary Ingle called him), entertained us with his finesse and piano playing.

We were very disappointed that the conference recitalist, Yefim Bronfman, had to cancel due to illness, but the young man who took his place had us spellbound. Perhaps you already know of Drew Petersen, but I had not heard of him before. He played a program of Chopin, Ravel and Schumann, and was absolutely phenomenal!

The 2024 MTNA Conference will be held in Atlanta on March 16-20, and I encourage you to attend. You will enjoy the wonderful programs, recitals, and opportunities to connect with other music professionals!

Cathy Thacker, NCTM  
GCMTA President





# Georgia Musicale Group

**Save the date!**

## Maestro Jura Margulis Special Event

**Wednesday, May 24<sup>th</sup>, 2023**

**Noon – 6 p.m.**

**PIANOWORKS**

DULUTH GEORGIA

2805 Buford Highway • Duluth, GA 30096

770-623-0683 • [www.PianoWorks.com](http://www.PianoWorks.com)



### Tentative Schedule

- 12:00 p.m. – 1 p.m. Recital
- 1:00 p.m. – 2 p.m. Lecture & Discussion
- 2:00 p.m. – 6 p.m. Masterclasses (5 students)

\*One of his CDs with Maestra Argerich

Session I: Noon-1 pm Maestro Margulis' Recital \$20

Session II: 1 pm – 6 pm Lecture + 6 masterclasses + Q&A \$20

Students: 50% discount

Full Sessions' (I & II) purchase includes 1 CD and a book + 2023 GMG listener's membership.

**Registration required:** <https://www.mygmg.org> click "Event Registration."

\*\*At <https://www.mygmg.org>, you will find his website, bio & discography.

\*\* The price on 5/24 will be \$50 if available.

\*\*Detailed information and schedules will be announced later.